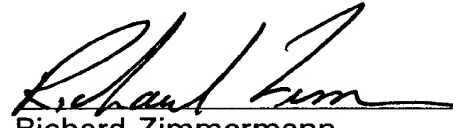


PATENT

#5
(17)
2/17/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	)	"EXPRESS MAIL" mailing
	)	label No. EL827655162US
Erwin Knieling et al	)	Date of Deposit: July <u>12</u> ,
	)	2001. I hereby certify that
Serial No.:	)	this paper (or fee) is being
	)	deposited with the United
Filed:	)	States Postal Service
	)	"EXPRESS MAIL POST
For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR THE	)	OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE"
STERILIZATION OF PACKAGING	)	service under 37 CFR §1.10
CONTAINERS	)	on the date indicated above
	)	and is addressed to:
Attorney Docket No.: 30071/37530	)	Commissioner for Patents,
	)	Washington, D.C.
Group Art Unit:)	
)	
Examiner:)	
)	
)	
	)	Richard Zimmermann

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The patents and/or publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form-1449 are submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98. Copies of the patents or publications are enclosed as necessary.

Submitted herewith is a copy an International Search Report of the European Patent Office in counterpart foreign application No. PCT/EP00/10611, filed October 27, 2000.

TIME OF FILING

This information disclosure statement is being filed:

- X 1. with the application or within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or, to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), no certification or fee is required.
2. after the time period specified in paragraph 1 above, but, to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113 or notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311. Therefore, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), submitted herewith is:
- (check either A or B below)**
- A. a certification as specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e).
- B. the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c).
3. after the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113 or a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee. Therefore, Applicant submits herewith:
- A. a certification as specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e);
- B. the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i); and
- C. the accompanying petition under 37 CFR §1.97(d).

CERTIFICATION

(only used if No. 2 or No. 3 above is checked)

The person(s) signing below certify

(check appropriate paragraph)

that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

OR

that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

PETITION

(only used if No. 3 above is checked)

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) that this Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, and document(s) identified therein be considered.

PRIOR AND RELATED APPLICATIONS

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of the patents and publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form-1449 are not provided because the patents and publications were previously cited by, or submitted to, the Patent Office in a prior application that Applicant(s) rely upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120. Documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 were cited by, or submitted to, the examiner of the following patent application(s):

Applicant(s):
Serial No.
Filing Date:
Title:
Status:

Other applications related to application Serial No. are:

Applicant(s):
Serial No.
Filing Date:
Title:
Status:

METHOD OF PAYMENT

X No fee is required.
Attached is a check in the amount of \$_____.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, O'TOOLE, GERSTEIN,
MURRAY & BORUN
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6402
(312) 474-6300

Dated: July 12, 2001

By: Richard B. Hoffman
Richard B. Hoffman
Reg. No: 26,910

Form PTO-1449 (Modified)

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No.

30071/37530

Serial No.

09/889439

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT*(Use several sheets if necessary)*

Applicant

Erwin Knieling et al

Filing Date

Group

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initials	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	3,481,109	12/2/69	Pavey			
	4,987,721	1/29/91	Turtschan			
	5,598,859	2/4/97	Kronseider			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initials	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	EP 0 381841		EPO			X	
	EP 721808		EPO			X	
	EP 0 758624		EPO			X	
	FR 2774912		France			X	
	DE 19642987		Germany			X	
	DE 19808318		Germany			X	
	DE 3900448		Germany			X	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.